

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

*Beginning on page 3, line 9:*

In one embodiment, an optical fiber having a refractive profile is provided and includes a core area extended along a predetermined reference axis, and a cladding area formed around the external circumference of the core area, wherein the radii of the core area and cladding area and the refractive profile are selected such that the optical fiber has the following characteristics: a zero dispersion wavelength in the range of 1300 to 1350 nm; a dispersion value in the range of 13 to 18 ps/nm·km at 1550 nm wavelength; a zero dispersion ~~wavelength~~ wavelength-slope in the range of 0.046 to 0.079 ps/nm<sup>2</sup>·km; and, an effective cross-section area of 70  $\mu\text{m}^2$  or more.